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S E C R E T
SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 28 Sep. '53

SUBJECT Import and Use of Chromium Ore

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DATE
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DATE OF INFORMATION

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. Chemapol AS planned to import 3,000 tn. of chromium ore for the year 1953. This was approximately the same quantity as had been imported for previous years. [redacted] this was the total quantity of chromium ore to be imported into Czechoslovakia for 1953 and that it would be sufficient for the needs of Czechoslovak industry. All this chromium ore was to be imported from the USSR, from the Caucasian beds, which are the best in the world.

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2. The Czechoslovak foundries planned to use 200 tn. of chromium ore during 1953, while the ceramic industry planned to use about 1,000 tn. of chromium ore in production of fireproof building materials, blast furnace masonry, fireproof casings, and other similar materials. The chemical industry planned to use about 1,800 tn. of chromium ore, of which the Chemical Works, National Enterprise, in Sokolov /N 50-11, E 12-38/ planned to use 1,000 tn. for production of ferrochromium. The Soda Factory (TONASO) National Enterprise, in Nestemice /a part of Usti nad Labem/ planned to use the remaining 800 tn. of chromium ore for production of potassium bichromate and potassium chrome alum, which are used in tanneries and printing shops. This breakdown of chromium ore consumption was approximately the same in previous years. However, the quantity of ferrochromium produced has fluctuated slightly from time to time according to the needs of the foundries and the amounts of electric current available.

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3. Czechoslovakia has no domestic chromium ore. Of the Communist nations, China, Bulgaria, and Albania have large deposits of good quality chromium ore, but export is hampered by poor transportation facilities. Chemapol had imported no Chinese or Bulgarian chromium ore, and it imported Albanian chromium ore for the last time in 1951. [REDACTED] Albanian chromium ore was transported by truck to Durazzo, from where it was shipped in small sailing vessels. Difficulties arose because of the varying quality of the ore, which apparently was a mixture of ores from various beds; there was none of the usual testing or classification of the ore before shipment.

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